

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

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No. 1

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

The White House on December 8 announced its appointments to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, created by Congress in late September. Appointed as the public members of the commission were Frank Bane, former Executive Director of the Council of State Governments, Chairman; James Pollock, Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan, Vice Chairman; and John Burton, Vice President of Cornell University.

Cabinet members appointed are Robert B. Anderson, Secretary of the Treasury; Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare; and James P. Mitchell, Secretary of Labor. Governors named to the commission are Ernest F. Hollings, South Carolina; Abraham A. Ribicoff, Connecticut; Robert E. Smylie, Idaho; and William G. Stratton, Illinois. State legislators appointed are Senator Elisha T. Barrett, New York; Senator (Mrs.) Leslie Cutler, Massachusetts; and Senator John W. Noble, Missouri. Mayors named are Anthony Celebrezze, Cleveland, Ohio; Gordon S. Clinton, Seattle, Washington; Don Hummel, Tucson, Arizona; and Norris Poulson, Los Angeles, California. County officials appointed are Edward Connor, Wayne County, Michigan; Clair Donnenwirth, Plumas County, California; and Edwin Michaelian, Westchester County, New York.

The Speaker of the United States House of Representatives has named the following as congressional members of the commission: Florence P. Dwyer, New Jersey; L.H. Fountain, North Carolina; and Wilbur D. Mills, Arkansas. Three members of the United States Senate will be appointed by the President of the Senate.

An organizational meeting of the commission, held December 14 at the White House, was attended by twenty of the twenty-three members appointed. Topics discussed were staffing of the commission and scheduling of problems to be examined.

DEATH OF GOVERNOR CLAUSON

Governor Clinton A. Clauson (D) of Maine died in his sleep December 30, at the age of 64. Governor Clauson was in the first year of a four year term as chief executive. Under terms of the state's constitution, John H. Reed (R), President of the State Senate, succeeds to the Governorship.

Governor Clauson, who was born in Iowa, served as Maine Collector of Internal Revenue for nineteen years. He was in the oil distributing business when he made his successful bid for the Governorship. He was elected in 1958 to succeed Edmund S. Muskie, now a United States Senator from Maine.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Hawaii Special Sessions -- Hawaii's first state legislature in two special sessions -- August 31-October 22 and November 9-14 -- completed its major task of organizing the state's executive-administrative branch of government into less than twenty departments, as provided by the state constitution. The legislation, signed by Governor William F. Quinn, provides for eighteen departments. They are: Planning and Research; Personnel Services; Accounting and General Services; Attorney General; Budget and Review; Treasury and Regulation; Social Services; Economic Development; Transportation; Labor; Defense; Taxation; Health; Education; Agriculture and Conservation; Lands and Natural Resources; Hawaii Home Lands; and the University of Hawaii. All but the last are styled as Departments, and all but the last five will be headed by single cabinet members.

The reorganization is scheduled to begin going into effect by the first day of the next regular legislative session, February 17, 1960, and to be completed by the tenth day of the regular 1961 session. The Governor is directed to appoint department heads and assign department functions by the

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earlier date, with allowance for postponing action on any department until July 1, 1960, if technical or legal difficulties necessitate. In the cases of the University and the Department of Planning and Research, action may be delayed until the 1961 date if legally necessary to permit present officers to hold their positions. The Governor is also directed to proceed with the internal organization of departments and submit implementing bills to the 1960 and 1961 regular legislative sessions. The budget for the 1960-61 fiscal year is to be prepared according to the new organization.

The reorganization bill also creates the office of Administrative Director and provides for the elected Lieutenant Governor to assume the functions of the former Territorial Secretary of State.

Other bills passed at the first special session set up fiscal procedures, created the post of Legislative Auditor and established annual legislative sessions. It established the machinery for presidential elections and the method of placing political parties on election ballots. It also provided for filling vacancies in the United States House of Representatives and in the State Legislature.

Michigan Regular Session -- The Michigan Legislature adjourned December 19, 1959 after 175 days -- the longest session in the state's history. An \$87 million revenue package was approved. The veterans trust fund of about \$40 million was liquidated. It will be restored over the next eleven years, and the \$1.2 million which the fund yields annually in interest for benefits to needy veterans will be paid from the general fund. The corporation franchise fee was increased from four mills to five, for an annual increase of \$13 million. New or increased taxes on liquor, tobacco, beer, and telegraph and telephone bills will raise \$34 million.

Rhode Island Special Session -- The Rhode Island legislature met in special session November 17, recessed until November 24, and adjourned November 25. It established a new license suspension law for motor vehicle operators. The measure substitutes

fixed mandatory suspension provisions for the discretionary authority that has been held by the State Registry of Motor Vehicles. Suspensions and revocations, detailed in the new law, range from three days to one year. Among other bills approved, the legislature set up a legislative commission to study the motor vehicle laws.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

A constitutional convention held in New Hampshire December 2-4 approved four amendments for submission to the voters. The New Hampshire constitution can be amended only by a constitutional convention. The first proposal seeks to reduce the length of legislative sessions by terminating all mileage payments for legislators after ninety legislative working days or after July 1, whichever comes first. Another would authorize the legislature to provide for continuity of government by permitting vacancies in state government posts to be filled in the event of an emergency. A third would provide that nonresident college students and military personnel be deducted from census figures for purposes of reapportioning the State House of Representatives. The fourth amendment would increase from \$100 to \$500 the minimum amount necessary in civil suits before a jury trial can be demanded.

BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers of the Council of State Governments held its annual meeting at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia on December 3-4, 1959.

The Board elected the following as officers of the Council and members of the Executive Committee: President, Governor J. Caleb Boggs, Delaware; First Vice President and Chairman of the Board of Managers, Senator James J. McBride, California; First Vice President-Elect, Senator Hal Bridenbaugh, Nebraska; Second Vice President, Senator Harold T. Garvin, Oklahoma; Third Vice President, Jack F. Isakoff, Director of Research, Illinois Legislative Council; and Auditor, James G. Rennie, Director of the Maryland Department of Budget and Procurement. Henry W. Toll of Colorado remains Honorary President. Governor LeRoy Collins of Florida and John E. Burton, Vice President of Cornell University, were elected Managers at Large for terms of five years each.

Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff of Connecticut, Chairman of the Governors' Conference Committee on Roads and Highway Safety, spoke on recent action in the field of roads and highway safety. Bernice T. Van der Vries, Member of the Chicago Transit Authority and former Illinois State Representative, reported on mass transportation problems in urban areas. Committee reports included discussion of possible methods of interstate cooperation for equitable treatment in the

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area of non-resident income tax and legislative jurisdiction over federal lands.

The Board adopted a motion authorizing the President of the Council to appoint a committee of state officials to confer with the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Finance Committee on studies of these committees concerning state taxation of interstate income. The Council committee is also to study the development of uniform standards among the states to assure that interstate businesses will not be taxed on more than 100 per cent of income.

NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

The New England Governors' Conference met in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 19. Included among topics discussed were matters relating to the closing of United States Air Force bases in New England, railroad rates on shipments of grain, the establishment in New York City of a joint promotional office for the New England states, the textile industry, and the joint use of correctional institutions.

The Conference reviewed a proposed New England correctional compact and referred it to the state Attorneys General for opinions on the legal status of such a compact. Governor Abraham A. Ribicoff of Connecticut reported to the Conference on the current status of the federal aid highway program.

LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

The first National Conference of State Legislative Leaders was held in Albany and New York City December 6-9. More than 120 leaders from thirty-four states and the territory of Guam attended the conference, which was called by the legislative leaders of New York.

Professor Harvey Walker of Ohio State University spoke at the opening session on "The Role of the Legislature in State Government." Other speakers included Charles F. Conlon, Executive Director of the Federation of Tax Administrators, and Wayne Reed, Deputy United States Commissioner of Education. Topics at panel and discussion sessions included education, taxation and revenue, and state-local relationships.

Legislators attending the conference voted to establish a permanent organization of legislative leaders of the states. Officers and an Executive Committee were chosen to make plans for such an organization and for the next meeting. Walter J. Mahoney, President Pro Tem of the New York Senate, was elected President, and Carl T. Burgess, Majority Leader of the South Dakota House of Representatives was elected Vice President. Members of the Executive Committee are Arthur J. Bidwill, President Pro Tem of the Illinois Senate; A. Gordon Boone, Majority Leader of the Maryland House of Delegates; Ralph M. Brown, Speaker of the California Assembly; Horace De Vargis, President Pro Tem of the

New Mexico Senate; Charles D. Gallagher, President Pro Tem of the Nevada Senate; Howard Y. Miyake, Majority Leader of the Hawaii House of Representatives and William J. O'Brien, Jr., Speaker of the Connecticut House of Representatives.

1960 GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

A thirteen member Montana Host Committee is far ahead in its planning for the 1960 Governors' Conference to be held at Glacier National Park June 26 through June 29. Plans are in progress for an anticipated attendance of 750. Governors will receive official invitations early in 1960, as well as information on post-conference dude ranch visits. Governor J. Hugo Aronson reports that Montana considers the Conference the biggest promotional boon in the state's history.

CONFERENCE OF NORTHEASTERN STATES

Interstate problems in the fields of welfare and natural resources were the main topics at the fourth Biennial Regional Conference of the Northeastern States, held in New York City, December 14-15. State officials from ten northeastern states attended the conference, sponsored jointly by the New York Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation and the Council of State Governments.

Major proposals for interstate compacts in the welfare field were explained. One, the Interstate Welfare Compact, has been approved by the Governors' Conference. The second is a proposed compact on the placement of children, which is currently being developed.

Various aspects of water resources and other natural resources programs were discussed, and reports were made on the work of several interstate resource agencies in the northeast.

Other topics considered included a proposed crime investigations compact, the New England Corrections Compact and the Interstate Agreement on Detainers. Two other reports dealt with the work of the New England Board of Higher Education and suggestions contained in Suggested State Legislation -- Program for 1960, prepared by a committee of state officials of the Council of State Governments.

TAXES

State Income Tax Forms -- California and Idaho taxpayers will find filing state income tax returns a simpler process in 1960.

California has developed a simplified tax return identical in size and similar in makeup to the federal tax form 1040-A. Eliminating much of the technical instruction that often confuses and exasperates taxpayers, the new form is expected to save about an hour of pencil work for each of almost half

the state's four million taxpayers eligible to use it. The form applies to persons earning less than \$15,000 a year who claim a standard deduction and receive their income wholly from salaries, wages, dividends or interest.

Idaho also has adapted its income tax form to the federal forms, following adoption by the 1959 legislature, with some limitations, of the federal internal revenue code.

Seek Tax Study By Foundation -- Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois has appointed a nine man commission to negotiate with certain foundations for a study of Illinois tax problems. No state funds will be spent in the study, and the commission itself will not attempt to reach conclusions about future policies for financing state and local governments. The project is expected to take more than a year to complete and cost around \$250,000.

HIGHER EDUCATION COSTS

California Projections -- A survey team of educators appointed by the California legislature has estimated that the annual operating and building costs of the state's public universities and colleges will total more than \$1.1 billion by 1975. The group was formed to develop a master plan for higher education in the next two decades. The estimate was made public in a report by the survey team to a liaison committee of the University of California and the State Board of Education.

Comparable costs for the 1957-58 fiscal year, the latest for which statistics are available, were \$412 million. The anticipated near tripling of costs over the next fifteen years is expected to be accompanied and occasioned by a similar rate of increase in enrollments -- from 197,000 now to 587,000 in 1975.

From several points of view the \$1.1 billion figure was felt to be conservative. First, it is based on the 1958 purchasing power of the dollar. If inflation continues at the present rate of 2.5 per cent a year, the 1975 total may go as high as \$2 billion. Second, the estimate does not include allowances for junior college capital outlays, acquisition of new campus sites, or establishment or expansion of medical centers. Third, previous long-range estimates have fallen far below actual costs. In 1948 a study anticipated higher education costs of \$70 million in 1960. Actually, they will be nearer \$450 million.

Most of the estimated total costs for higher education in 1975 will go for operating purposes alone. The University of California is expected to account for \$476 million of the total, state colleges for \$290 million and junior colleges for \$243 million. Operating costs last year were \$145 million, \$54 million and \$77 million respectively. On the basis of present sharing of higher

education costs, the state would be responsible for about \$700 million of the \$1.1 billion total. The rest would come from local taxes for junior colleges, student fees, grants, endowments and other income.

HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC SAFETY

Governors' Conference Committee -- The Governors' Conference Committee on Roads and Highway Safety met December 2, 1959, at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. On conclusion of the meeting it issued statements regarding traffic safety and the federal-aid highway program.

Noting the increased traffic accident toll, the committee suggested that states adopt policies of reciprocity in driver license suspension and revocation; urged the Western and Southern Governors' Conferences to proceed as expeditiously as possible in their studies of driver licensing administration and law enforcement; and requested the staff of the Governors' Conference to inventory steps taken by the states to implement recommendations contained in the Report on Highway Safety submitted to the Governors' Conference in 1956.

The committee expressed concern over recent steps taken by the federal government in the federal-aid highway program authorizing contract controls and administrative cutbacks from spending levels authorized by Congress in 1956 and 1958. It requested a meeting of Congressional leaders and representatives of the committee with the President early in January, 1960, to try to develop a workable solution to the financing problem in keeping the highway program on schedule.

Northeast Highway Safety Conference -- The Twenty-fourth Annual Highway Safety and Motor Vehicle Conference was held in New York City December 14-15, sponsored jointly by the Council of State Governments and the New York Joint Legislative Committee on Interstate Cooperation. Members of commissions on interstate cooperation and other state officials from the ten northeastern states attended.

At the opening session there was extensive discussion of cooperation among the states in the reporting of convictions of out-of-state motorists and in the suspension or revocation of drivers' licenses on the basis of such convictions. Following this, the conference considered proposals for interstate cooperation in taxation of commercial vehicles. Other matters relating to highway safety and motor vehicles were discussed, including size and weight regulations, interstate bus inspection, and the work of state safety coordinators.

Highway Committee Reactivated -- Governor George Docking has reactivated a seventeen member Kansas highway coordinating committee, created in 1956. The committee is composed

of representatives of the County Engineers Association, the County Commissioners Association, the League of Kansas Municipalities, the State Highway Commission and the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. Main functions of the committee are to study state highway operational programs and to make subsequent recommendations to the Governor. Another aim of the group is coordination among governmental agencies on highway matters.

Turnpike Tests Double-Units -- The Kansas Turnpike Authority is conducting a three month test of operating double-bottom freight units on its 187 mile toll road. Gale Moss, general manager of the turnpike, reports that the authority decided to permit the units to use the toll road on an experimental basis after favorable reports of experience of Massachusetts and New York. (State Government News, August, 1959)

The double-bottom units will produce considerably more revenue than standard size freight units. They will pay at the rate of 10 cents a mile, compared to between 3 and 4.5 cents a mile for most other trucking units operating on the turnpike.

Blood Test Law Unconstitutional -- A South Dakota Circuit Judge has declared the state's "implied consent" blood test law unconstitutional. The law, passed in 1959, provided that any driver charged with a traffic violation who refused to take a blood test would automatically lose his license for a year. The judge said the title of the law is ambiguous and its intent difficult to determine.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Metropolitan Facilities -- Utah has begun a study designed to establish the basis for long-range development of public transportation facilities throughout the Salt Lake City metropolitan area. Governor George D. Clyde called a meeting in December to review the goals and methods of the study and the role of each of three committees that will oversee the project. An intensive fact gathering phase, to determine the area's traffic habits, patterns, needs and facilities, has already been initiated. An executive committee has been appointed by the Governor to serve as a general supervisory group. A citizens' advisory committee will assist in the planning.

PROPOSE BRIDGE-RIVER AUTHORITY

A committee recently appointed by Governors J. Caleb Boggs of Delaware and Robert B. Meyner of New Jersey has recommended a bi-state bridge agency to operate the Delaware Memorial Bridge at the southern end of the New Jersey Turnpike; erect a similar span adjacent to the bridge; and consider establishment of a ferry service between Cape May,

New Jersey and Lewes, Delaware. The new agency would be known as the Delaware River and Bay Authority. It would be composed of five members from each state, selected by the Governors on a bipartisan basis.

In a report to the Governors the committee indicated that the agency's functions should be reviewed periodically by the two legislatures so that its activities might be broadened when necessary. It would finance its operations through sale of revenue bonds or other obligations. The endorsement of a majority of the members from each state would be required for any agency action, but such approval could be canceled by the Governor of that state.

HEALTH, WELFARE

Study Medical, Hospital Programs -- A seventeen member committee has been appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown of California to study the health needs of the state's citizens as well as medical and hospital care programs provided by both governmental and private agencies. Membership on the committee is composed of representatives of state medical and osteopathic associations, hospitals, private pre-paid health care programs, public health and welfare agencies, labor and private industry.

The group is directed to investigate the present provisions of health services and their cost, outline a long-range health program and recommend any immediate specific action, including legislation that would help bring about higher standards of medical and health care in the state. Among specific problems designated for study are ways for expanding medical and nursing schools; means for improving the quality and extent of hospital care; and provision of better health protection for the aged.

Increase Welfare Grants -- The Illinois Public Aid Commission has approved an increase in the maximum grant that may be allowed for living expenses, exclusive of medical care, to recipients of old age assistance and disability assistance from \$80 to \$82. The new ceiling is effective this month. The increase reflects a requirement in the Public Assistance Code which provides that maximum grants be adjusted upward or downward twice each year in proportion to changes in the cost of living index. The increase will apply only to those aged or disabled public aid recipients whose net expenses are at or above the former \$80 maximum.

Welfare Payments to Strikers -- The Montana Supreme Court has affirmed a District Court order that in effect entitles strikers and their families to the same rate of assistance payments as apply to claimants idled for any other reason. Specifically, the court directed the State Welfare Department to rescind its practice of paying needy families of

striking miners and smeltermen no more than half the relief money granted other relief recipients and refusing to grant unmarried strikers any relief at all.

Estate Lien Law -- During fiscal 1959 Massachusetts collected more than \$2.3 million from estates of deceased persons who had been receiving old age assistance or disability assistance. Collections were made under a lien law which permits the state to recover from estates the amounts paid to recipients during their life time, with some exceptions. The law became effective in 1952. Since then more than \$14 million has been collected under it. In addition, authorities say that existence of the act has resulted in a reduction in the number of persons who otherwise would have collected assistance. They estimate that without the act additional payments of \$42 million would have been necessary since 1952.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Research -- The Southern Regional Education Board has reported on the results of a survey of mental health research activity in the southern states. The board announced its findings at a workshop of southern psychiatrists in Atlanta, Georgia, December 6-8. The report indicated that money spent for mental health research in the region currently totals about \$3.3 million a year -- more than double the amount spent three years ago. It was estimated that by 1962, funds needed for research will approximate \$7.4 million.

Arkansas Hospital Report -- A progress report by the Arkansas State Hospital covering activities of the mental institution since January, 1956, indicates that the resident population as of November 30, 1959 is 4,770 -- lowest since 1951. Although admissions during fiscal 1959 were 38 per cent greater than in 1956, discharges were 45 per cent greater. Per diem cost per patient rose from \$2.62 in 1956 to \$3.34 in 1959.

The report noted that the social service staff at the hospital has been increased from three to twelve, an accredited training program for psychiatrists has been re-established, and approval has been received from the Veterans Administration for a program to train clinical psychologists. Included in the report is a breakdown of per diem costs for various categories of services provided by the hospital.

ATOMIC ENERGY

Radioactive Hazards Study -- Governor Robert E. Smylie of Idaho has appointed a seven member committee to study radioactive hazards and the use of atomic energy in the state. The committee represents private industry and state and federal agencies with responsibilities

ties in the atomic energy field. The group will study state and federal ways of developing solutions to radioactive problems and will develop legislation designed to provide the state with controls over radiation hazards in areas designated by federal legislation as responsibilities of the states.

Advisory Atomic Energy Committee -- Governor Edmund G. Brown of California has appointed a committee of eleven leading scientists to advise the state on its new task of promoting peaceful uses of atomic energy under legislation passed in 1959. Immediate tasks for the advisory group are to determine whether additional state measures are needed for radiation protection and whether the state should support a specific atomic energy project.

Atomic Energy Legislative Commission -- Governor William G. Stratton of Illinois recently appointed a seven member Legislative Commission on Atomic Energy to study the economic and social impact which peaceful uses of atomic energy, and radiation, may have on citizens of the state. Appointed were representatives of industry, labor, science and technology, and the insurance business. Directors of the state agencies for public health, public welfare, agriculture, labor, commerce and civil defense were named by the legislature as ex-officio members of the commission.

EDUCATION FOR GOVERNMENT

Politician-In-Residence -- Governor Stephen L. R. McNichols of Colorado recently undertook the role of college professor at Rutgers University, New Jersey. As "politician-in-residence" for a week at the University's Eagleton Institute of Politics, the Governor was engaged in teaching classes and participating in informal sessions with the students. The Institute was founded to offer training and encourage participation in practical politics with students having the opportunity to learn directly from politicians. Previous "politicians-in-residence" have included United States Senators Thomas H. Kuchel of California and Clifford P. Case of New Jersey.

Degree Programs for Government Employees -- A series of courses leading to a master's degree is offered by the University of Illinois for state employees at the state capitol in Springfield. The degree can be earned without campus residence, a requirement of most universities. A recent course offered is Administrative Organization and Policy Development, which includes study of policy formulation in public administrative agencies; current developments in organizational theory and their significance for public administration; and be-

ginnings of public administrative organization.

Meantime, the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, New York, has announced scholarships for employees of federal, state, regional and local governments. The scholarships pay amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for graduate study in both master's and doctoral programs in public administration. Endorsement by the employing governmental agency is required of applicants.

Internship Program -- Massachusetts has announced the beginning of a three year internship program in public administration to be financed by a \$145,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation. Under the program five senior college students will be selected during each of the next three years to work as interns in the office of the Commissioner of Administration. Each internship shall be for a two year period and interns will receive \$7,500 to \$9,000 for the two years' work. During the first year, an intern will work in state government and attend weekly seminars. In the second year he will take graduate courses at one of four participating institutions of higher education in the state. Purpose of the program is to attract capable young people to positions in state government. Internships are open to United States citizens who have completed four or more years of college in any institution of higher education.

ADMINISTRATION

Massachusetts Self Survey -- Massachusetts is undertaking a "Self Survey" of all state departments and agencies. It is similar to a program carried out during the past three years in Minnesota. The Massachusetts Self Survey will include detailed studies of such problems as departmental organization and structure, reporting and public administration, personnel policy and administration, budget process and fiscal control, plant property management, systems and procedures and regulatory and review processes.

The survey will begin, as in Minnesota, with a preliminary inventory of each state agency, based upon a 150 page work manual. A departmental team, including the department head, employees of the department and a representative of another state department, will make the survey in each department. Special task forces will study interdepartmental matters, such as personnel policy. The task forces will include representatives of state agencies, the Commission on Administration and Finance and outside experts from business, labor and academic fields. Governor Foster Furcolo will serve as Honorary Chairman of the Self Survey, which will be under the active direction of the Commission on Administration and Finance.

New Phase of Minnesota Self Survey -- Arthur Naftalin, Minnesota Commissioner of Administration, has announced the launching of phase three of the Minnesota Self Survey. The self survey utilizes a task force technique for effective low cost study of state operations. Phase one, which was started in 1955, studied the operations of individual state agencies. Phase two, conducted in 1956, studied cross-the-board problems similar to all agencies. Phase three is viewed as a review and stimulant to further administrative improvement. It involves forty-nine task forces, each consisting of four legislators, four members of the public and four state administrators or employees.

Mechanized Data Processing -- The Minnesota Department of Highways recently installed an electronic computer to aid in compiling payroll data, appropriation accounting, cost accounting and engineering computations. Further progress in mechanized data processing will be accomplished early in 1960 with the centralization of tabulating machine units of the Departments of Public Welfare, Conservation and Taxation.

State Salary Study -- The Nevada State Personnel Advisory Commission has approved plans for a study by the State Personnel Department to develop a formula setting long-term salary scales for state workers. The study will seek to establish a clear pattern for classification and compensation policies and procedures. In developing the salary formula, the department will attempt to set standards for giving state employees cost-of-living wage boosts as well as merit increases.

STATE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The New Hampshire legislature at its 1959 session created a State Historical Commission to be composed of five members. Representative Ralph Sanborn has been appointed chairman of the new commission. Function of the commission is the formulation of plans to preserve the state's heritage, improve public understanding of the heritage and preserve public records, other documents and objects of historical value.

REAPPORTIONMENT SUIT FAILS

A three judge Federal District Court in Tennessee has dismissed a suit attempting to force reapportionment of the Tennessee legislature. The suit was filed by a Memphis attorney representing a group of citizens. It asked that the Tennessee Apportionment Law, enacted in 1901 and still in use, be declared invalid. The suit further asked that members of the 1961 legislature be elected at-large or that a new apportionment of seats be decreed by the court. The court

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said it had no right to intervene in the dispute and noted that for the court to attempt to set up legislative districts by decree would constitute the clearest kind of judicial legislation and an unwarranted intrusion into the political affairs of the state.

THE COURTS

Court Conference -- A National Conference on Judicial Selection and Court Administration was held in Chicago November 22-24, jointly sponsored by the American Judicature Society, the American Bar Association and the Institute of Judicial Administration. Main objective of the conference was to focus national attention on the need for improved methods of selecting judges and modernizing court administration. Independence of the judiciary and non-political selection and tenure of judges were the central theme of the meeting. Conference participants included 164 federal and state judges, lawyers, law teachers, bar association presidents, deans of law schools, court administrators, newspapermen and prominent national lay organization leaders from thirty-five states, Canada and England.

Pre-Trial Conferences -- An extensive study of pre-trial conferences in New Jersey courts will get under way in January. The study is believed to be the first comprehensive effort to evaluate the effectiveness of pre-trial procedures. It will be conducted by Columbia University Law School with the cooperation of the New Jersey Administrative Office of the Courts. The study was requested by Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub of the State Supreme Court.

Presently pre-trial conferences are required under the rules in all personal

injury cases heard in the Superior Court in New Jersey. For purposes of the study such conferences will be required only in every second case -- the rules being suspended in the others -- although pre-trial will be permitted upon request in the alternate cases. Judges, attorneys, clerks and others involved in the cases will be asked for detailed, confidential information regarding the progress of cases in both categories. On the basis of the data thus compiled it should be possible to compare the results obtained in cases where pre-trial was used with those in which it was not used.

Court Costs Increase -- The Executive Secretary of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in a recent report indicated that net court costs in the state had increased to \$15.7 million for the past year -- more than \$1 million over costs for the preceding year. The report noted that the backlog of cases which plagued the courts a few years ago has been largely eliminated. Various improvements in the administration of justice and availability of additional Superior Court Judges have made it possible to keep calendars reasonably current in most courts in the state.

Record Total of Cases -- The North Carolina Superior Court system disposed of a record total of almost 49,000 cases in fiscal 1959. The pending backlog was reduced by about 2,400, or 10 per cent, in spite of a 5 per cent increase in filings. The pending criminal case load was cut by 16 per cent in the face of a 7 per cent gain in new suits -- leaving a load that normally can be disposed of in eight to ten weeks. Judges averaged an additional ten days on the bench and handled ninety-seven more cases than in the previous fiscal year.

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